



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Honor guard training

Senior Airman Orlando Brown, an Air Force Honor Guard instructor from Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., explains pallbearer procedures to honor guard members at Hangar 9. The Air Force Honor Guard's mobile training

team used its first visit to Brooks April 9-13 to provide standardized training required of all Air Force honor guard members. More than 50 active duty, Guard and Reserve Air Force honor guard members from throughout Texas attended the training. *See story on Page 13.*

AAFES rolls out Social Security Number elimination program

DALLAS — The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is changing its procedure for check acceptance at all AAFES direct operated facilities worldwide — a procedure that will eliminate the use of Social Security Numbers on checks.

In February, AAFES announced it was setting up a three-phase process to eliminate the need for Social Security Numbers on checks. The first phase was a pilot "proof-of-concept" test conducted in November 2000. The sites included Headquarters AAFES in Dallas, Fort Sam Houston and Lackland Air Force Base.

AAFES began rolling out its new check acceptance program earlier this month. The program, which uses a magnetic ink character recognition reader system.

The implementation of the readers in the Eastern Region exchanges began the first week of April and will be finished CONUS-wide by the end of May.

The new system will not require cashiers to enter the Social Security Number of the sponsor of the check but, instead, the number of the person presenting the check. This is accomplished by taking the number off the presenter's identification card and key entering the number as a one-time requirement into the computer to associate with bank information.

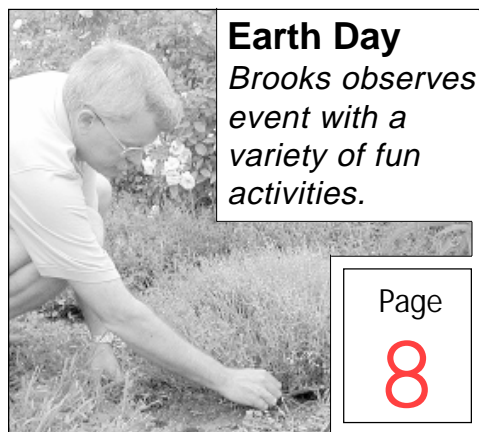
The Social Security Number is not required to be written on the check. The check is scanned using the MICR reader technology, which reads the routing number, account number and check number. Other basic data, such as the presenter's name, address and military unit (for active duty members) must still be printed or entered on the check.

Until all stores are finished being installed with the new readers, the stores will continue to record Social Security Numbers on checks.

The Social Security Number, which is used by both AAFES and the Department of Defense to identify military members, is an important element in the authorization of checks, as well as verification to identify customers who are authorized to use exchange facilities.

"It is AAFES' policy to take every practical step to ensure the privacy of the service members, retirees and the family members we serve," said Tim Bailey, chief of AAFES' Management Information Systems Fiscal Support Branch. "AAFES has made this commitment as a part of our mission to better serve our customers throughout the world."

INSIDE



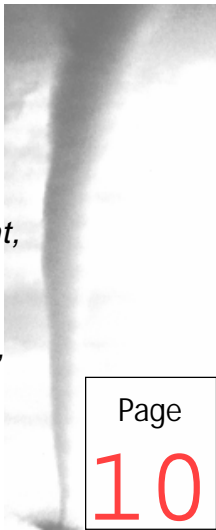
Earth Day
 Brooks observes event with a variety of fun activities.

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Severe weather

Spring is the time of year when weather can turn violent, even deadly with severe thunderstorms, lightning, flash floods and yes, tornadoes.



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'Mystery object' to be among Millennium time capsule artifacts

By Rudy Purificato
 311th Human Systems Wing

A mysterious object with an accompanying riddle will be perhaps the only artifact in the Millennium time capsule that may truly puzzle future 'Indiana Jones-like' detectives 50 years from now. Nonetheless, the Brooks community is encouraged to provide some potential surprises for the time capsule that will be dedicated May 23 in a 9 a.m. Hangar 9 ceremony.

These 'surprises' can be e-mail submissions about ideas involving coin-size artifacts that embrace the spirit of the base, your unit or yourself, or your predictions concerning the future of San Antonio, Brooks and possible technological advances in the year 2051.

"We're asking everyone who lives or works at Brooks to contribute ideas that may be included in the time capsule," said Master Sgt. Dan Meadows, Millennium Project Committee chair-

man. The deadline for e-mail submissions to Meadows has been extended to today (April 27). "We want just a few lines identifying who you are, what you do at Brooks and your (futuristic) predictions about San Antonio, Brooks and technology," Meadows explained.

Unit coins and photos of base organizations and facilities are among the artifacts that will be included in the time capsule. A scroll featuring the signatures for those who attend the dedication ceremony will also be included in the time capsule. A multimedia presentation revealing the time capsule's contents will be available for public view at the dedication ceremony.

The Millennium Project Committee challenges the Brooks community to try to identify the 'mystery object.' While the riddle to unlocking the mystery object's identity will be published in the May 11 *Discovery*, an early clue is provided: 'it's something out of this world.'



What the boss really meant to say...



By Col. James Moschgat

12th Operations Group commander

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE (AETCNS) - At the height of the Vietnam War, three bored, battle-hardened Air Force captains, all fighter pilots, got together and produced a skit lampooning flawed communication.

One played the part of a news reporter, the second acted as himself, while the third pretended to be an Air Force public affairs officer.

The reporter, hoping to get the fighter pilot's view of the war, asked a number of pointed questions about aerial combat. To each, the pilot responded callously with speech liberally laced with four-letter expletives.

After every reply, the nervous public affairs officer would quickly interject, "What the fighter pilot really meant to say ..." followed by his politically correct rendition of the answer, all clocked in glittery prose.

On it went, question, tawdry answer and the PA officer's attempt to modify the captain's message, always prefaced with the words, "What the fighter pilot really meant to say ..."

Certainly today's Air Force professionals, especially our leaders and supervisors, are much better communicators than the people in the skit.

We are now better educated, trained and more sensitive to the impact words have on those around us. Also, communication tools abound at our fingertips. Computers have improved the quality of our written communication, and electronic mail guarantees lightning-quick contact with everyone near and far.

Detailed policy letters exist in every unit, Web sites bring us the latest Air Force news, and regulations on disk are just a keystroke away.

Why then, despite almost daily ventures into cyberspace, monthly commander's calls, endless policy briefings and a waterfall of other communications methods, do many airmen still find themselves guessing, "I

wonder what the boss really meant to say?"

Quite simply, it's because leaders and supervisors often tend to overlook or downplay a vital communications signal - their own actions.

Experts agree nearly 60 percent of all interpersonal communication is nonverbal gestures, posture or, most importantly, actions. Call it what you will, leadership by example or "leading by deed," but when a leader's actions contradict his or her words, confusion results.

Take the following fictional, but all-too-true, example.

Senior Master Sgt. Fred Smith is a fast-burner who runs a tight, professional shop. He promotes balance as a tenet of his success and openly encourages a "work hard, play hard" ethic. Sergeant Smith insists his people use their annual leave and has even counseled a few holdouts who never seem willing to take time off.

However, Sergeant Smith himself is in the office from dawn to dusk, rarely taking even a short lunch break. He works most weekends, and his folks know he has lost leave for the last three years.

Everyone knows Sergeant Smith's official leave policy, but what message does he convey through nonverbal actions?

Surely, those in his charge are wondering the same thing. Is leave really that important? If I want to be a fast-burner like my boss, can I afford to take time off?

Perhaps leave is only for the "unimportant" people in the organization. Maybe leave is for those not tough enough to handle the rigors of an Air Force career; you know, the ones who can't cut the mustard. Worse still, perhaps Sergeant Smith is insincerely spouting the words his commander passed to him but not following his own commander's directives.

No matter what, the signals Sergeant Smith sent are definitely muddled and could likely have a negative impact on his team.

What did the boss really mean to say? His divergent messages - the difference between words and actions - make it difficult to discern the truth. You make the call.

Sergeant Smith's example clearly illustrates how easily a leader's actions can subvert words or policies and confuse subordinates. Some say this microscopic scrutiny of a leader's every move is unfair and unhealthy, a condition known as "living in a fishbowl." After all, many argue, leaders and supervisors are people too.

Realistically, scrutiny comes with the job; to deny it is illusionary. Unfortunately, some supervisors attempt to avoid their subordinates' critical regard by not acting at all, but to no avail.

Their failure to act when action is called for sends a thundering message all its own. Take, for example, the supervisor who turns a blind eye to sexual harassment in the workplace.

What did that boss really mean to say on that topic?

Successful leaders deal with life in the fishbowl and effectively communicate by seeking consistency between their "talk" and "walk." No matter how you slice it, a leader is always communicating — there's always a message being sent.

Some try to show consistency by putting up a good front and spouting the party line. Generally, that tactic doesn't work for long.

Most subordinates will spot inconsistencies in a heartbeat, and they'll be left pondering which message is correct, if any at all.

A true leader's words and actions harmoniously blend purpose, integrity, honor, faith and honesty.

In short, a leader's words and deeds must coincide - the walk has to match the talk. If not, there's surely a group of subordinates somewhere guessing, "I wonder what the boss really meant to say?"

Could those confused subordinates be yours?



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Congressional delegation eyes Brooks housing, dorms, buildings

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

U.S. Representative David Hobson of Ohio led a congressional delegation here April 12 during a fact-finding tour of military installations that focused on housing and privatization issues.

Hobson, chairman of the Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee, was a key architect of enabling legislation that created the Brooks City-Base Efficiency Project.

The Brooks tour included military family housing, student and permanent party dormitories and the Frank M. Tejeda Directed Energy Bioeffects Laboratory.

Hobson was accompanied by U.S. Representatives John Oliver of Massachusetts, Chet Edwards of Texas and Sam Farr of California. The group serves on the House Appropriations Committee and the Subcommittee on Military Construction.

"They're interested in privatization and how

it works," said Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd Jr., 311th Human Systems Wing commander.

Dodd said Farr was particularly enthusiastic about City Base, noting that the California congressman had remarked that it will save the government a lot of money and is a real alternative to Base Realignment And Closure.

"In his (Farr) district in Monterrey (Calif.) there are a number of privatization efforts going on. We've used some of their initiatives as a model (here), but they don't have the enabling legislation we enjoy," Dodd said.

The delegation was also impressed by the condition of the Brooks dorms and base housing, noting the evident pride that past leaders and current occupants take in their quarters. The Brooks visit concluded the group's Texas tour that included stops at Lackland Air Force Base, Fort Hood and the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Representative Chet Edwards of Texas, visits Brooks "Dorm Room of the Quarter" award winner Airman Teresa Berry, 311th Medical Squadron. Edwards was part of a Congressional delegation touring Brooks family housing, student and permanent party dormitories and the Frank M. Tejeda Directed Energy Bioeffects Laboratory on April 12. Berry received the Dorm Room of the Quarter Award for Jan. 1 - March 31.



Brooks, UTSA sign pact to create partnership

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

In a major move that bolsters base redevelopment initiatives and fosters academia's role to expand research and job opportunities, the 311th Human Systems Wing and the University of Texas at San Antonio signed a Memorandum of Understanding April 12 that establishes a unique cooperative partnership.

Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd Jr., 311th HSW commander, and Dr. Ricardo Romo, UTSA president, signed the MOU in a ceremony held at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine auditorium.

"This (agreement) is essential. We have to have a global perspective. The city has no choice but to be a high tech city, or we'll be left behind," said Romo who described UTSA's decision to form a partnership with Brooks as a "no-brainer."

The five-year agreement leverages

both parties' resources to promote economic development involving small and technology-based businesses, scientific research specifically focusing on biotechnology, and educational and training opportunities.

The partnership also fosters the sharing of research and educational facilities, and provides a collaborative environment promoting joint scientific studies, workforce training opportunities and community and business outreach initiatives.

Describing Brooks as the only Aerospace Medicine Wing in the Air Force, Dodd said the MOU is part of the base's vision for future partnerships that will greatly enhance Air Force operational readiness.

"The MOU opens doors (for Brooks) through UTSA's Colleges of Engineering, Business, Science and Institute for Economic Development. This (unprecedented) cooperation will only strengthen operational (aerospace) medicine in the future, benefiting our

country, the Air Force and (American) taxpayers," said Dodd. He noted that the agreement is consistent with Brooks City-Base goals that include fostering public-private partnerships and reducing base operating costs.

The partnership could potentially provide UTSA students internship opportunities involving Brooks collaboration featuring what Romo described as some of the world's top research scientists.

Bexar County Judge Cyndi Taylor Krier, who has been nominated by the governor to serve on the University of Texas Board of Regents, praised the agreement. She said, "If we're going to look into the future and really think big, then this agreement is potentially a great announcement to the world in terms of the good research work to be done here.

"This unlocks the door to unprecedented cooperation between the military and academia and local, state and federal government." Krier said the MOU potentially could be a boon to



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

University of Texas at San Antonio President Dr. Ricardo Romo and Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd Jr., commander of the 311 Human Systems Wing, hold the Memorandum of Understanding after signing the document April 12 at Brooks .

public-private sector partnerships in business, engineering and science that will foster economic development.

Referring to Brooks' similar agreement with Texas A&M University signed earlier this year, she said the MOU with UTSA moves City Base another step from what was once an

exciting dream to an exciting reality. She said, "This is a turning point for the military, higher education and economic development in San Antonio."

Krier pledged her full support, noting that both the UT and A&M systems consider the MOUs with Brooks among their top priorities.



Photo by Capt. Dawn Zoldi

Kitchen helpers

Brooks volunteers from left, Army Specialist Suzanne Mayerchak, Airman 1st Class LeJoyce Harvey, Capt. Tom Biediger, 2nd Lt. Barry Reeder and Vera Walker take time out for a group photo at the St. Vincent de Paul food kitchen in downtown San Antonio. Volunteers served food to the homeless April 12 as part of an outreach program sponsored by the Brooks Company Grade Officers Council.



NEWS briefs

Civilian of the quarter breakfast

Today's the last day to purchase tickets for the Brooks Civilian of the Quarter Breakfast, May 4, 7:30 a.m. in the Brooks Club. See your unit ticket sales representative, or contact Susann Baker at 536-4544.

April enlisted promotion ceremony

The Brooks enlisted promotion ceremony will be held April 30, 3 p.m. in the Brooks Club. All enlisted promotees will be recognized for their promotion to the next higher grade for the month of May.

Brooks Heritage Foundation scholarships

April 30 is the deadline to submit applications for the 2001 Brooks Heritage Foundation Scholarships. The Foundation is offering a \$1,000 P.D. Straw Scholarship and two \$250 student aide scholarships. Eligibility requirements are outlined on the application. Recipients will be notified by May 18.

Applications are available at the Brooks Heritage Foundation office located in Bldg. 659, adjacent to Hangar 9. Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information, call 531-9767.

Dining out tickets

Tickets go on sale May 1 for the Brooks Dining Out, June 1 in the Brooks Club. Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd Jr. will preside over the event as the mess president. Tom McNish, former Air Force colonel and prisoner of war, will be the keynote speaker.

Social hour begins at 6 p.m. and the mess gets underway at 6:45 p.m. Dinner choices are New York strip or chicken cordon blue.

Tickets, priced on a graduated scale, are available through unit first sergeants.

Base yard sale

Looking for some bargains? Check out the Brooks quarterly yard sale, May 5, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in the family housing area. The sale is open to all military and Department of Defense identification card holders.

Randolph's Tattoo at the Taj

A Tattoo (musical tribute to airpower) will be held May 10 and 11 at 7:40 p.m. in front of the Taj Mahal at Randolph Air Force Base. May 10 is full dress rehearsal and May 11 is the actual show. Both are open to military identification cardholders, those able to access the installation and their guests.

The event includes a silent demonstration by the Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team, a performance by the San Antonio Pipe and Drum Corps bagpiper ensemble, a retreat ceremony and flag tribute, a 21-gun salute and playing of echo Taps, and flyovers by more than 20 aircraft that will encompass the history of military aviation.

Aircraft scheduled to take part in the flyovers include the SE-5A, Scout, PT-17, T-6, B-25, P-51, P-40, T-33, F-86, T-28, O-2, F-4, F-15, F-117, F-16, KC-135, C-130, A-10, B-1 and a composite formation of 12th Flying Training Wing aircraft.

The Air Force Band of the West from Lackland will provide the music for the program.

Comptrollers luncheon

The American Society of Military Comptrollers will gather at Randolph Officers Club for its next luncheon, May 15. Social hour begins at 11 a.m. followed by lunch at 11:30 a.m. Richard Laporte, retired chief master sergeant, will be the guest speaker. His topic is "Planning/investing for your retirement."

Lunch selections consist of either: blue selection — \$7.75, Chef Julian salad, coffee, tea and rolls; or the red selection — \$8.75, bowtie pasta with chicken breast, seasonal vegetables and sun-dried tomato sauce, coffee, tea and rolls.

For tickets, contact Betty Ann Rosales at 536-1335 or e-mail her by close of business May 3 at: Bettyann.Rosales@brooks.af.mil.

Speech/audiology booth

As part of Better Speech and Hearing Month, 59th Medical Wing audiology and speech specialists at Wilford Hall Medical Center will set up an information booth at the Lackland AFB Exchange, May 5 and 19, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Information will include hearing conservation and speech impediments.



Photo by Staff Sgt. John Jung

Fiesta fun

Staff Sgt. Michael Ryan, Brooks Air Force Base 2001 Ambassador, counts the Fiesta medals on the hat of a young reveler at the opening ceremonies in Alamo Plaza on April 20. The tot made his own Fiesta medals to give to the crowds at the start of the 10-day gala event in San Antonio. Expanded coverage of Fiesta events will be featured in the May 11 issue of the *Discovery*.

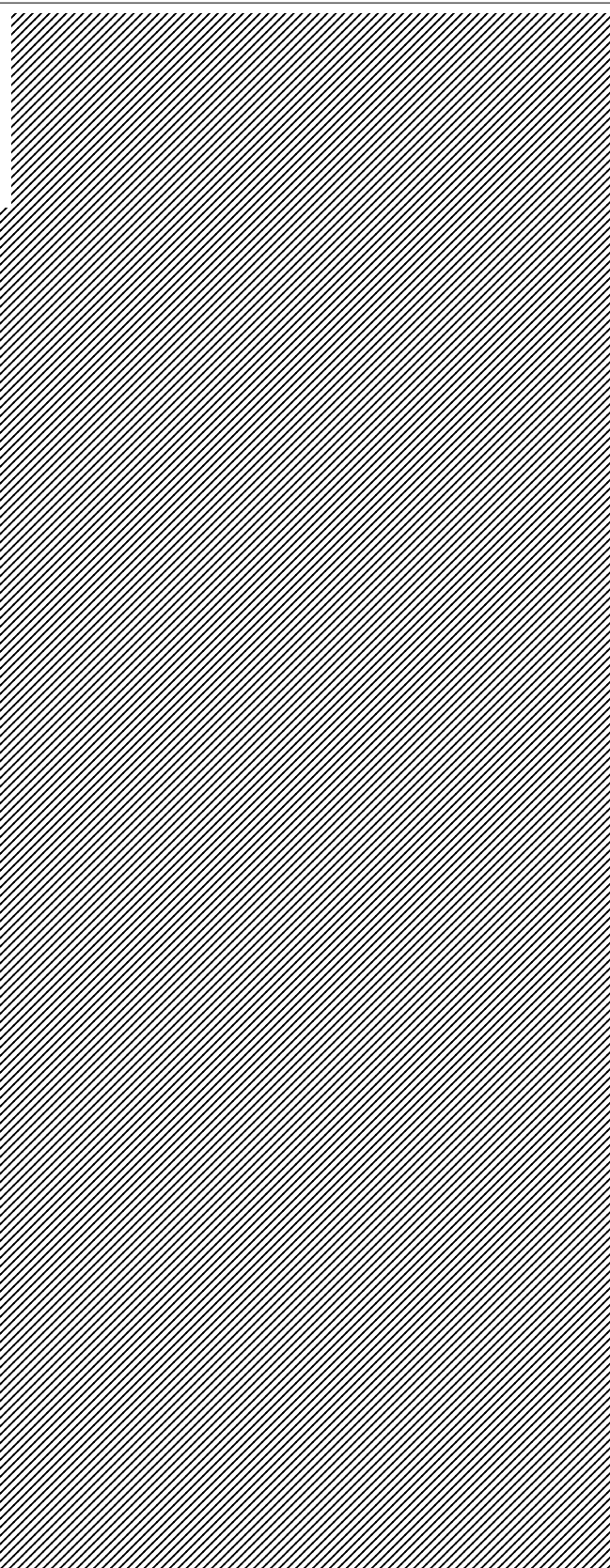





Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Signs of health and wellness

Finding your way around the Brooks Clinic is a little easier nowadays, thanks to the 311th Medical Squadron’s hallway signs. The signs are patterned after the highway system in San Antonio and include Loop 1604, Loop 410 and U.S. 281.



Education notes

By Carolyn Croft-Foster
Brooks Education Services Office
536-3617

VEAP conversion

Servicemembers who have VEAP accounts are now eligible to convert them to the Montgomery GI Bill. Education Services will contact members whose names appear on a list of eligibles. If you are eligible and have not been contacted, contact Education Services, Bldg. 570 C. For more information or to attend a conversion briefing, call 536-3617.

Maymester

Palo Alto College will conduct two Maymester courses at Brooks. Classes are three weeks long and will be May 14-June 1. The classes, Speech and Art Appreciation, will meet Monday through Thursday, 4:30-8:30 p.m.

Call 536-3617 to set up an appointment with the Alamo Community College District representative or stop by the Education Office, Bldg. 570 Suite C-1.

CCAF Graduates

The Aerospace Education Foundation’s Eagle Grant provides a one-time grant of \$400 to selected top Air Force enlisted members graduating from the Community College of the Air Force and planning to pursue a bachelor’s degree.

Eagle Grants are endowed by the Aerospace Education Foundation through corporate contributions and donations from the Air Force Association members and their chapters.

Spring graduates who are interested in applying should stop by Education Services, Bldg. 570-C, to pick up an application, if they did not receive one in the mail.

The following documents should be included when submitting the package: commander’s endorsement, a narrative statement describing extracurricular activities and their significance, appropriate citations and awards representing distinguished activity, and proof of enrollment or intent to enroll in an accredited program leading to a bachelor’s degree.

Packages must be submitted by May 9, 2:30 p.m. For more information call Education Services at 536-3617.

June exams

Students wishing to take an Excelsior College essay exam or the College Level Examination Program General English exam with essay need to request their exams by May 3. Regular CLEP testing is available on Fridays at 8 a.m. For more information or to reserve a seat call 536-3617.

OLLU information

To obtain undergraduate information at Our Lady of the Lake University, visit the university’s website at: www.ollusa.edu or call (210) 431-3995 to schedule a campus visit. For OLLU graduate program information call 431-3972.



ACTION LINE

536-2222



Brig. Gen. Lloyd E. Dodd Jr.

311th Human Systems Wing commander

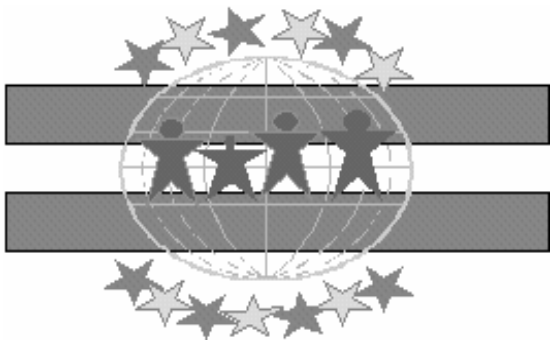
The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-3310
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Air Base Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	536-7000
Housing Office.....	536-1840
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
Military Pay.....	536-1851
Civilian Pay.....	536-2823
I.G. (FWA).....	536-2358
Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
Base Exchange.....	533-9161
Commissary.....	536-3549
Brooks City Base Project Office.....	536-6626

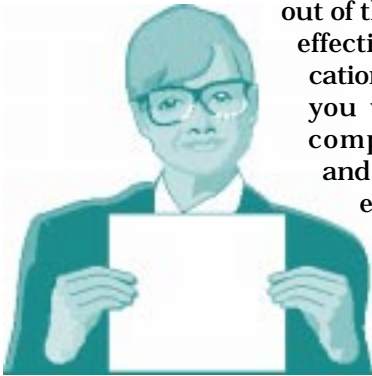


Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444 for information

Interviewing Techniques

May 2, 9-11 a.m., Bldg. 538 — Don't get out of the race. Learn effective communication to get the job you want. Gain a competitive edge and have employers take notice of what you have accomplished and will contribute!



Resume Workshop

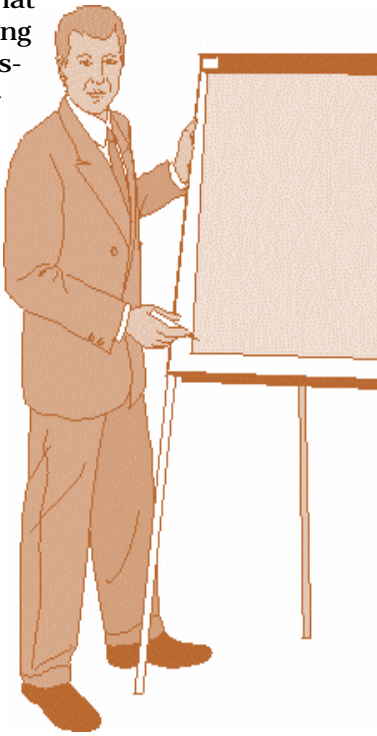
May 8, 9-noon, Bldg. 538 — Learn the different resume styles and how to write and use them effectively to open career opportunities. Learn the dos and don'ts of resume development. As an added bonus, learn how to develop impressive cover and thank you letters.

Estate Planning

May 9, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Bldg. 538 — Most people feel that estate planning is an unpleasant and morbid subject.

They put it off because they are too busy, or they think they don't own enough assets for planning to matter, or they don't like to think about death.

This class is designed to teach you how property is transferred if someone dies, help you figure out what you own so you can make informed choices about disposing of it, and understanding wills.





DeWayne Parks, age 4, and children from the Brooks Child Development Center plant a tree in front of the fitness center. Looking on from left are Hamid Kamalpour, base natural resources manager, Brig. Gen. Lloyd E. Dodd Jr, 311 Human Systems Wing commander and Mark Peterson, regional urban forester. The tree planting ceremony is one of four required activities each base or city must observe in order to maintain their status as "Tree City USA."



An Earth Day environmental community awareness table was set up at the fitness center. Items included T-shirts, stress balls, coasters and recycle magnets.

Brooks Earth Day activities

Earth day is celebrated each year on different days throughout the world. In honor of the official Brooks Earth Day, April 18, several activities were held during the period March 22 - April 22. They included tree plantings, trash pick up, recycling, landscaping, 5K run, fitness day, briefings and a picnic. The photos on this page capture just a few of those events.



Runners line up for a 5K run at the fitness center. Army runners led the pack.





Photo by Rudy Purificato

Tech. Sgt. Bobbi Jensen lights the Yahrziet (memorial) candles during the Yom HaShoah service for Holocaust victims at the Brooks Chapel.

Chapel Yom HaShoah service honors Holocaust victims

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

In a poignant tribute to the six million Jews killed by the Nazis during the Holocaust, a Brooks non-commissioned officer who has converted to Judaism conducted a base Yom HaShoah prayer service at the Brooks Chapel on April 18.

The service was the concluding event of the monthly Lifebuilders program that featured a presentation on Judaism and anti-Semitism.

It was the first time that Brooks hosted a Yom HaShoah service. Chaplain (Maj.) Dennis Hutson, Lifebuilders program founder, credits Tech. Sgt. Bobbi Jensen with the idea for the service that has been commemorated worldwide as a Jewish Day of Remembrance since 1951.

HaShoah, which in Hebrew means “day of the whirlwind,” commemorates the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising in Poland.

Judaism marks that uprising as the

beginning of the Holocaust in which millions of Jews and non-Jews were murdered in Nazi death camps 1938-1945.

Jenson, an equal opportunity and treatment program manager in the Military Equal Opportunity Office, presided at the Yom HaShoah service. She read a special prayer dedicated to the memory of Jews who died.

The lighting of the traditional Yahrziet (memorial) featuring the top candle, called the Shamash or ‘servant candle,’ and six other candles situated in a pyramid-like configuration, followed the prayer.

As she lit the remaining six candles individually, Jensen paused to pay tribute to Holocaust victims. “Each candle represents one million Jews who died,” Jensen said.

„Jensen’s faith compelled her to persuade the Brooks Chapel staff to allow her the honor of conducting the service here. “I’m a Messianic Jew. I was a gentile, but converted to Judaism

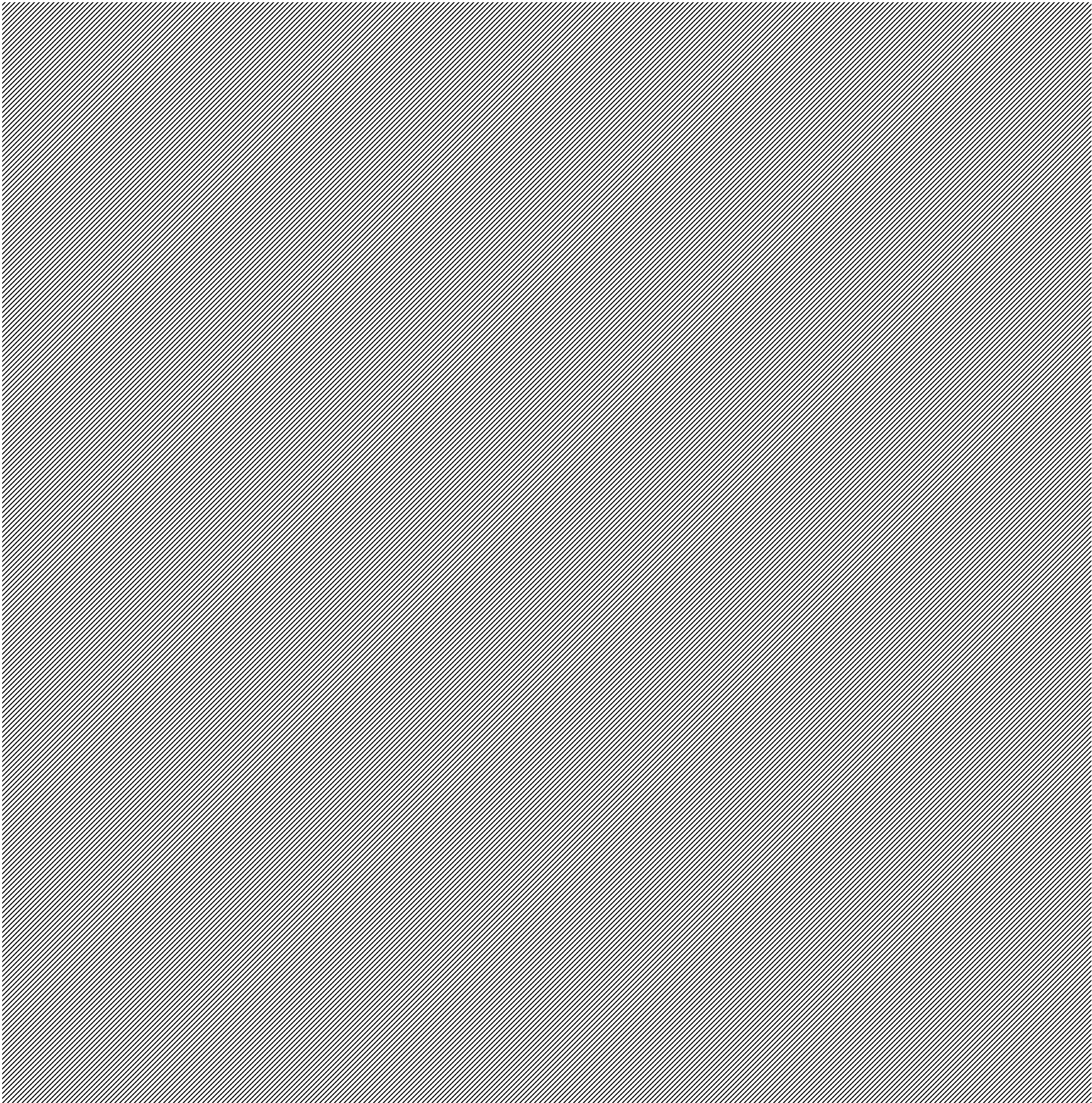
eight years ago,” Jensen said.

Lifebuilder's main program on Judaism provided a fitting forum for the Yom HaShoah service.

Dr. Peggy Starkey, a member of the Interreligious Council of San Antonio Speaker’s Bureau, presented a program chronicling the history of Judaism, the roots of anti-Semitism and some of the reasons why some people in the world claim the Holocaust never happened.

Since 1992, Starkey has been a professor of world religion and Hebrew scriptures at the University of the Incarnate Word. She, along with her husband Dr. Archie Nations who accompanied her here, are United Methodists who share an abiding interest in Judaism from which Christianity developed.

Starkey’s presentation was interactive, challenging Lifebuilders participants to step out from their personal ‘comfort zones’ to discuss Jewish stereotypes.





Most flood-related deaths involve motorists

The majority of flood-related deaths that occur in Texas each year involve motor vehicles, officials say.

People attempting to drive through flooded roadways often have their vehicles swept away in the floods.

“The tragedy of these deaths and injuries,” according to Tom Millwee, state coordinator for the Texas Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, “is that they usually are preventable.”

A flood watch means rainfall in the area is heavy enough to cause a flood. A flood warning means there is or will be imminent flooding.

“They are very deceptive and occur quickly,” Millwee said. “Often flash floods occur at night when warnings may go unnoticed and when darkness makes it hard to find an escape route.”

“Even worse,” he warned, “the water is usually deeper than it appears to be and moves at a swift pace.”

Floodwaters can hide many dangers from washed-out roadways to dangerous currents. Motorists should avoid low-water crossings during thunderstorms and should find alternate routes to avoid flood prone areas, Millwee said.

“The best rule,” he said, “is do not walk, swim or drive through floodwaters.”

He noted several safety points for motorists to remember:

- Keep alert for signs of heavy rain and watch for rising water levels.

- Only six inches of fast-moving water can knock a person off his or her feet.

- Two feet of water will carry away most vehicles.

- Although one vehicle successfully passes through a flooded crossing, there is no guarantee that the next one will be able to do the same.

- It is against the law to drive around a road barricade. It’s also risky business.

- Be especially cautious at night. It is harder to recognize the dangers then.

- If a vehicle stalls, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.

Flooding, Millwee noted, has been the leading cause of weather-related deaths in the United States for the past 20 years. Texas averages 25 flood-related deaths a year, according to the National Weather Service.

“Flooding can strike any time and any place with little or no warning,” Millwee said. “By observing a few flood safety rules, people can save their lives and those of their loved ones.” (*Courtesy of the Texas Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management*)

If you’ve lived in South Texas for any length of time, you know that the weather here is very unpredictable, especially during the spring. Just this week severe storms passed through the San Antonio area dumping up to several inches of rain and causing flash foods, high winds and lightning ... and there’s more to look forward to. May and June are typically the rainiest months, according to meteorologists. It’s also the time when the weather can turn deadly.

Tornadoes: nature’s most destructive, deadly force

Dale Eckroth

Discovery editor

Tornadoes in South Texas are rare, but do occur. They are nature’s most violent and destructive storms. A hurricane may be 2,000 times larger but is less than half as violent.

Although tornadoes occur in many parts of the world, they are found most frequently in the United States, east of the Rocky Mountains during spring and summer in an area known as “Tornado Alley” — parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Iowa.

About 800 tornadoes are reported nationwide, resulting in 80 deaths and more than 1,500 injuries.

A tornado is defined as a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground. The most violent tornadoes are capable of tremendous destruction with wind speeds of 200 mph or more. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long.

What causes tornadoes?

Thunderstorms develop in warm, moist air in advance of eastward-moving cold fronts. These powerful

thunderstorms often produce large hail, strong winds and tornadoes.

During the spring, Texas thunderstorms frequently develop along a “dryline” (east of Marfa, Texas, northeastward), which separates very warm moist air to the east from hot, dry air to the west. Tornado-producing thunderstorms may form as the dryline moves east during the afternoon hours.

Tornadoes are classified as either weak, strong or violent. Weather forecasters say 69 percent of all tornadoes are classified as weak with winds less than 110 mph. They cause less than 5 percent of tornado deaths.

Strong tornadoes, with winds of 110-125 mph, account for 29 percent of all tornadoes. They may last as long as 20 minutes or longer and cause nearly 30 percent of all deaths.

Two percent of all tornadoes are classified as violent, with winds greater than 200 mph. They cause 65 percent of all tornado deaths and can last more than an hour.

Know what to do

If a tornado is imminent, take cover immediately. If you’re in a house, go to a center hallway, bathroom or closet on the lowest floor. Stay away from windows to avoid flying glass and other debris.

If you’re at work, go to the lowest floor or in a hallway in the center of the building.

If you are outside and there are no buildings nearby, lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area. If you are in a vehicle or mobile home, get out immediately and head for safety.

According to Brooks Disaster Preparedness Readiness officials if a tornado is spotted or touches down within five nautical miles of Brooks the Alert Warning system will sound a three- to five-minute steady tone. Personnel should be vigilant for the sighting of a tornado and be prepared to take shelter or cover.

For more information, refer to the Brooks Base Populace Brochure, Base Populace Guide or contact the Readiness office at 536-2214/2268.

When severe weather strikes!

Tornado myths

Myth: Areas near rivers, lakes and mountains are safe from tornadoes.

Fact: No place is safe from tornadoes. In the 1980s, a tornado swept through Yellowstone National Park leaving a path of destruction up and down a 10,000 foot mountain.

Myth: The low pressure from a tornado causes buildings to “explode” as the tornado passes overhead.

Fact: Violent winds and debris slamming into buildings cause most structural damage.

Myth: Windows should be opened before a tornado approaches to equalize pressure and minimize damage.

Fact: Opening windows allows damaging winds to enter the structure. Leave the windows alone; instead, immediately go to a safe place. (*Courtesy of the National Weather Service*)

Watches & Warnings

Watches

- **Severe thunderstorm** — conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms.

- **Flash flood** — rainfall in the area is heavy enough to cause a flood.

- **Tornado** — conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes.

Warnings

- **Severe thunderstorm** — severe weather has been reported; take necessary precautions.

- **Flash flood** — flooding is imminent or is already occurring.

- **Tornado** — a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.



Did you know?

Thunderstorms

A typical thunderstorm is about 15 miles in diameter and lasts an average of 30 minutes. Radars indicate nearly 1,800 thunderstorms are occurring at any moment around the world. That averages out to about 16 million a year.

Of the estimated 100,000 thunderstorms that occur each year in the United States, only about 10 percent are classified as severe. The National Weather Service considers a thunderstorm severe if it produces hail at least 3/4-inch in diameter, winds of 58 mph or higher or tornadoes.

Straight-line winds are responsible for most thunderstorm wind damage and can exceed 100 mph.

Lightning

Lightning is the second most common cause of weather-related deaths in Texas. Lightning occurs in all thunderstorms and is responsible for an average of 93 deaths and 300 injuries each year in the United States.

Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur as far as 150 miles away

Storm tips

□ Keep a battery-powered weather radio handy (available at most electronic stores). The National Weather Service broadcasts weather warnings.

□ Weather watches and warnings are posted for individual counties. Brooks is located in Bexar County with San Antonio being the major city. Surrounding counties include Atascosa, Bandera, Comal, Guadalupe, Kendall, Medina and Wilson.

□ San Antonio radio stations KTSA (550 AM) and WOAI (1200 AM) provide continuous up-to-date weather forecasts. Their broadcast signals are powerful enough to be heard throughout most of south central Texas.

from any rainfall. The air near a lightning strike is heated to 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit — hotter than the surface of the sun. The rapid heating and cooling of air near the lightning channel causes a shock wave that results in thunder.

Most lightning occurs within the cloud or between the cloud and ground. A cloud-to-ground lightning strike begins as an invisible channel of electrically charged air moving from the cloud toward the ground. When one channel nears an object on the ground, a powerful surge of electricity from the ground moves upward to the cloud and produces the lightning strike.

Precautions

□ If you hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning. Seek a safe shelter immediately such as a sturdy building or vehicle. Do not take shelter in small sheds, convertible automobiles or under isolated trees. Stay out of boats, away from water.

□ If a sturdy shelter is not available, get inside a hard-top automobile and roll up the windows.

□ If there is no shelter near-by, find a low spot away from trees, fences and poles.

□ If you are in the woods, seek shelter under shorter trees.

□ If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground. (Courtesy of NOAA)

South Texas severe weather watches, warnings and radar are available on the web at:

www.srh.noaa.gov/ewx/.

The Texas Department of Public Safety also has severe weather information and tips at:

www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/.



Photo courtesy of the National Weather Service



Marsh

Q&A

FULL NAME:

Master Sgt. Andre Marsh

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:

Superintendent of Management Analysis, 311th Human Systems Wing Manpower and Organization

WHAT IS MY JOB?:

I manage and conduct manpower and organization issues for the base

BIRTHDAY:

Aug. 15, 1963

HOMETOWN:

Benton Harbor, Mich.

FAMILY STATUS:

Married with two children, 14 and 10.

NICKNAME I CALL MYSELF:

"Dre"

MOTTO:

Live by your own convictions.

INSPIRATIONS:

Knowing that I have a true friend in Jesus who will judge me but accepts me for who I am regardless of my past and my faults.

HOBBIES:

Breathing air from nature hikes, sports and relaxing.

PET PEEVE:

Fighting stupid battles created from hateful, envious and antagonistic people.

BOOK AT BEDSIDE:

Self improvement and mysteries, when time permits.

I JOINED THE AIR FORCE:

To escape the Marine Corps and to become an air traffic controller

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:

Prepare my daughters for life and myself for life after the military.

ULTIMATE GOAL:

Perfect peace

IF I WON THE LOTTERY, I'D:

I'd assist my immediate family with financial goals, retire and help the less fortunate, mainly the sick.

FAVORITE MUSIC:

Jazz, R&B, gospel, easy listening

LAST MOVIE WATCHED:

"Remember the Titans"

ONLY MY BEST FRIEND KNOWS THAT I:

Am a caring person, but eccentric.

Brooks Personality PROFILE

By Cerise Fenton

311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs

For some people, Brooks is a little too quiet, but for Master Sgt. Andre Marsh, superintendent of management analysis in the 311th Human Systems Wing Manpower and Organization office, the "quiet" is the best part.

If you don't know Marsh it may be because he's relatively new to Brooks, or because he keeps to himself and maintains a pretty low profile. Although it took him a number of years to realize it, he discovered that he's somewhat of a loner, and that's OK with him.

Marsh isn't only new to Brooks but relatively new to the manpower and organization career field, although he's been in the Air Force for nearly 17 years. He was studying electrical engineering at Southern University in Baton Rouge, La., and serving in the Marine Corps Reserves when he decided he wanted to be an air traffic controller. He left behind college and reserve duty and enlisted in the Air Force. Despite the fact that he chose another service he doesn't regret the time he served as a Marine.

"It was one of the highlights of my life," he said. "I was in the best shape of my life, and certainly the most disciplined."

As he began his new career Marsh recalls feeling like he was embarking on a new area of life. He had recently married and he and his wife, Vida, were headed to his first duty station, in Okinawa, Japan. Three years later his oldest daughter, Kyomi, who is named after a young Japanese woman they met there, was born. Later, back in the states, they had another daughter, Ashlei.

Now, Marsh's life revolves around his family.

"What makes me tick right now," he said, "is what makes the family tick, ensuring they are comfortable and happy."

His focus is on preparing his daughters for college and life, and providing them now with resources they may need to fall back on one day.

"There is generally a yes or no and a right or wrong answer, and in areas that are gray, you use your best judgment, your sense of values and morals," he said.

"I fell back on my parents teachings," and he hopes when the time comes, his girls will do the same.

"Life is all about what you do with it," he said. "It's like the saying, sink or swim."

All in all, he believes in the simple life, and the simpler the better, he said.

Above all else, Marsh believes in the power of education. According to him, life's strains and pressures can be better dealt with if a person is educated, and he tries to instill that in his daughters.

"Attitudes, perspectives and perceptions can be subjective," he said, "but they can't take away who you are or what you believe in. You need to have something in place to deal with that. The best way to avoid those type of situations is to be educated."

Although he doesn't push the girls to become doctors or engineers he said he does push education.

Marsh considers himself a lifetime learner and hopes to go back to school too. As he closes in on his 20-year mark in the Air Force, he is considering his next career path. Perhaps, one day he would like to teach, he said. He thinks he would enjoy teaching math or science, and the difference he may be able to make in a child's life.

NCO prefers a quiet way of life

Until then, Marsh is content to live life as it comes to him. He is learning his job, enjoying his family and getting to know himself better. He gets out for exercise and fresh air when he has time and enjoys nature hikes with his youngest daughter. They share an interest in nature, one he developed as a child hiking and camping in the woods surrounding his Michigan home, where the houses sat a half-mile apart.

Eventually, Marsh would like to return to 'the woods' and somewhere with four seasons; maybe Washington State or Minnesota, he said. He also hopes to take some time and hike the Appalachian Trail after retirement, to reprogram and clear his mind.

"The fact is, I'll probably end up where I'm most prosperous," he said, "and right now that looks like San Antonio."

That may be good since his wife is happy where she is and likes her job here, including her part-time job as an aerobics instructor at the base gym. Luckily, there's a lot going on in Texas and a lot of military tradition in San Antonio to interest him, he pointed out. Besides, it's not too far from his parents, who now live in Knoxville, Tenn.

tradition in San Antonio to interest him, he pointed out. Besides, it's not too far from his parents, who now live in Knoxville, Tenn.

Cerise.Fenton@brooks.af.mil

There is generally a yes or no and a right or wrong answer, and in areas that are gray, you use your best judgment, your sense of values and morals.

— Master Sgt. Andre Marsh



Without pomp or circumstance, 55 active duty, Guard and Reserve Air Force honor guard members from throughout Texas listened intently to instructions on how to properly render military honors so they could perform their duties with the precision of a well-oiled machine.

The Air Force Honor Guard's mobile training team used its first visit to Brooks April 9-13 to provide standardized training required of all Air Force honor guard members. Their mission is not unlike what legendary bandmaster and composer John Phillip Sousa once demanded of his military bandsmen who were required to 'be on the same sheet of music' regarding set procedures for musical performances.

"We're trying to standardize training. The course we're teaching here is condensed from our two-week resident course," said Tech. Sgt. John Wilson, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Air Force Honor Guard mobile training team.

Based at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., the Air Force Honor Guard is responsible for major ceremonies in the Washington area ranging from military funerals at Arlington National Cemetery to White House and Pentagon ceremonies and Presidential inaugurations.

Wilson developed the mobile training course in October 1999 based on the resident course. It's now used as an outreach one-week training program at honor guards' home bases.

This way, every team member receives training at the same time as opposed to just a few members who opt for the resident course, explains Wilson.

The mobile training team



Air Force Honor Guard trains Brooks, Texas teams at Hangar 9

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

“The real challenge for us is acceptance. Teams have become used to doing things their way for years.”

Tech. Sgt. John Wilson
Air Force Honor Guard
NCOIC

annually trains about 15 Air Force honor guards state-side.

Optimally, they try to train several teams at one location.

They quickly accepted an invitation from Staff Sgt. Angela Anderson, Brooks Honor Guard NCOIC, to conduct training here knowing there were other Air Force teams in Texas needing standardized instruction.

Honor Guard members from Brooks, Lackland, Dyess, Laughlin and Goodfellow AFBs participated in the training at Hangar 9.

Wilson said the impetus for standardized training is to correct old habits associated with military ceremonies so that active duty, Guard and Reserve honor guards can work together to support the needs of their communities.

Wilson said, "The real challenge for us (as a team) is acceptance (from those we train). Teams have become used to doing things their way for years.

There's resistance to change, but we are diplomatic in telling them the right way to do things."

The Air Force Honor Guard's initiative is linked to the January 2000 Congressional mandate requiring the Department of Defense to



Senior Airman Anna Santiago-Buedo, a Brooks Honor Guard member, renders a salute during honor guard training.

the Brooks Honor Guard received here was invaluable because the only member who had completed the resident course has since 'PCS'd.'

Her team is responsible for providing honors and ceremonies for distinguished persons in San Antonio and the South Texas area. These ceremonies include military funerals, retirements and weddings.

The Brooks team is not unlike other Air Force honor guards in that its members are committed to minimum 18-month tours and feature active, Guard and Reserve members including military personnel from other Armed Forces branches.

"The Air Force Honor Guard is appreciative of the kinds of things base honor guards are doing and the many obstacles they have to overcome," Wilson said. Anderson added, "The Brooks Honor Guard is appreciative of supervisors, commanders and first sergeants for allowing their people who serve on our team time away from work to train."

provide military honors to all veterans.

"The Air Force is the only branch training honor guards," Wilson said. He explained that it is important to veterans that military ceremonies are performed correctly.

Military movement is key to the training. The mobile training team provides instruction in three areas: firing party duties involving the manual of arms, colors training that includes proper carrying and displaying of flags, and pallbearers' duties that features set procedures while carrying caskets and flag-draping and folding the American flag. Trainees also receive instruction in various marching and saluting techniques.

Wilson's training team is composed of Staff Sgt. Khristine Nolte, firing party instructor; Staff Sgt. John Payne, colors trainer; and Senior Airman Orlando Brown, pallbearers instructor.

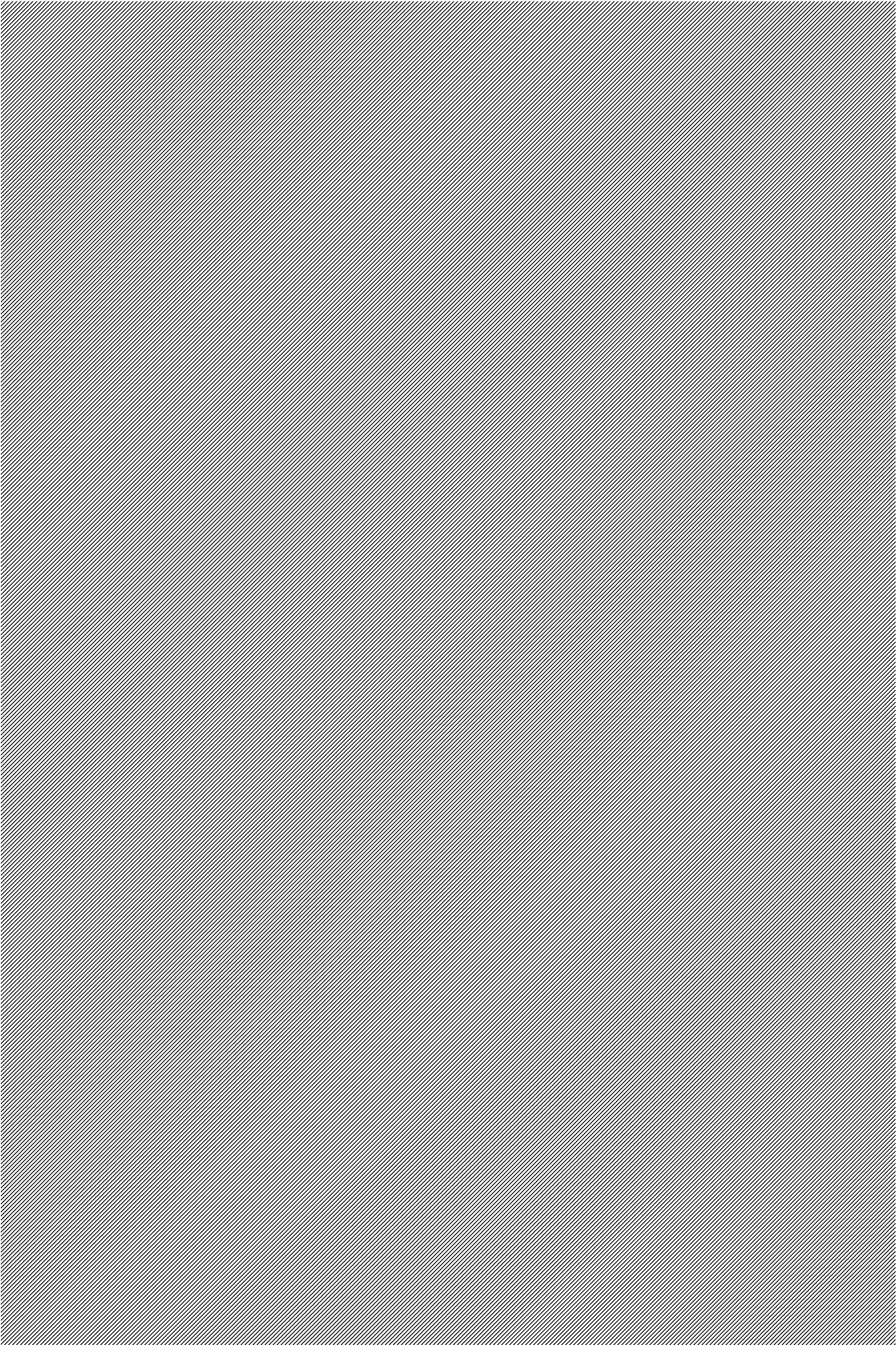
Anderson said the training



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Honor guard members conduct firing party training outside Hangar 9.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil





Base picnic bash

Bring the entire family to the 30th Annual Base Picnic Bash, June 8, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at the base picnic grounds. To commemorate the “Year of the Family,” the theme of this year’s event is “Families - Present and Past.”

Everyone is encouraged to come out and enjoy a variety of food, beverages and games for children and adults.

The FrameWorks

Bldg. 1154, 536-2120

The FrameWorks now has new hours of operation. They are Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m. The new hours are designed to make it more convenient for patrons.

Brooks Club

Bldg. 204, 536-3782

Air Force Services is now conducting its 5th Annual Club Membership Scholarship Program. First prize is \$5,000, second is \$3,000 and third is

\$2,000. Prizes are made possible by First USA Bank (no federal endorsement of sponsor intended).

Scholarship awards for the 2001-2002 school year will be announced by Oct. 1.

Eligibility Rules

□ Current club members and family members (spouse, son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, stepson and stepdaughter) are eligible to apply for scholarships.

□ Applicant must be accepted or be enrolled in an accredited college or university for the fall of 2001.

□ Student enrollment status may involve either undergraduate or graduate curricula.

□ Nominees must include the sponsor’s name, last 12 of his or her club membership card number, base, club name and the nominee’s full name with mailing address and phone number.

□ Nominees must provide an essay of 500 words or less, on the following topic: “Air Force



By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office
536-5475

Clubs — The value and rewards of membership.” Essays exceeding 500 words (excluding title) will be disqualified.

□ Nominee must provide a single-page summary of his or her accomplishments and long-term career/life goals.

□ Submit all nominations on standard white bond paper. Top/bottom and left/right margins must be set at one inch. Type font should be 12-point Arial or Times New Roman or an equivalent font.

□ Nominations must be submitted to John Robinette, Brooks Services director, by July 15.

□ All essays submitted become the property of the Air Force Services Agency and may be used in marketing and/or publicizing the club membership scholarship program.

For more information or to pick up an entry form, contact the Brooks Club staff at 536-3782, or stop by Bldg. 204.

Outdoor Recreation

Bldg. 1154, 536-2881

The base swimming pool opens Labor Day weekend. Hours of operation for the weekend will be May 26, 27 and 28, 1-6 p.m. Season pool passes are \$10 per person with a maximum of \$50 per family. The daily user fee is \$1.50.

Lifeguards are also needed for the 2001 swim season. Individual must provide current credentials in lifeguard certification, first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation training. Contact Joe Bonomo at 536-2881.

Post essay contest

Brooks military dependent children have a chance to win a \$500 Savings Bond in the Post Cereal Youth Essay Contest.

Essays should not exceed 1,000 words and will be written on the topic: “The person I admire.”

All military family children, 18 years or younger, who are eligible to use services facilities at Brooks may enter the contest.

Essays should include contestant’s name, age, telephone number and base. The winner will be asked for confirmation that he or she is a military family member authorized to use services facilities.

Essays should be postmarked before Aug. 1 and mailed to:

*San Antonio Missions Baseball Club
Post Cereal Youth Essay Contest
5757 Highway 90 W.
San Antonio, TX 78277*

For more information on the essay contest, contact the Brooks Services Marketing office at 536-5475.

CGOC News & Events

Leadership positions

The Brooks Company Grade Officers Council seeks individuals to fill leadership positions on the CGOC Executive Board. Elections are scheduled for May 11 at 2:30 p.m. in the Brooks Club.

Vacant positions include president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, public affairs liaison, fundraising chairperson, professional development officer, community service chairperson, and social chairperson.

If you are interested in running for a position or would like to nominate someone please notify 2nd Lt. Dale Kolomaznik at 536-2960 as soon as possible.

Great Strides walk

The CGOC is supporting “Great Strides, a walk to cure Cystic Fibrosis,” as its community service project for May. Squadrons will be asked to coordinate teams to raise money and participate in the 5k walk at Sea World San Antonio May 12. Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. and the walk begins at 8 a.m.

Cystic Fibrosis is a genetic disease with no cure affecting 30,000 children and adults in the United States. Money raised will be used for research.

For more information or to participate, contact 2nd Lt. Tim Schofield at 536-2406 or by e-mail at: tim.schofield@brooks.af.mil.

Volunteer projects

□ The CGOC needs an unlimited number of volunteers to visit inpatients at the Audi Murphy Veterans Hospital, May 15, 5-7 p.m. Children and family members are welcome. Volunteers are also needed to bake home-made goods, preferably with a patriotic theme, for the pre-Memorial Day visit and are asked to meet at 2 p.m. the same day to package the goods.

□ Between six and 10 volunteers are needed May 24, 6-8 p.m., to serve food to local homeless people at the St. Vincent de Paul Shelter in downtown San Antonio.

□ Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve a spaghetti dinner for families of long-term patients at the Fisher House, June 1, 4-6:30 p.m., Lackland Air Force Base. Food items as well as cooks and servers are needed.

To volunteer for any of the above projects or for more information, contact Capt. Risa Riepma at 536-2581 or through email at: risa.riepma@brooks.af.mil.



SPORTS SHORTS

Fiesta Rugby tournament

Teams from the Air Force Academy, Naval Academy and West Point will compete along with 16 teams from throughout Texas and Arizona during the 19th Annual Fiesta Rugby Tournament, Saturday.

The tournament will be held 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Bowie Field, 3606 Goliad Road, behind Brooks Air Force Base.

For information on the tournament, call the Alamo City Rugby Hotline at 684-1086.

Floresville volksmarch

The Randolph Roadrunners Volkssport Club will hold a 10K walk May 5 in Floresville, Texas. Starting point is the Promised Land Dairy, 208 State Highway 97 West.

Participants may start anytime between 7:30 and 11:30 a.m. and finish by 2:30 p.m. One lucky winner will receive a pair of walking shoes.

The walk kicks off "Walk across Texas," in which eight-member teams are recognized for jointly walking the length of Texas over an eight-week period.

For more information, contact Ellen Ott at (210) 525-8574, Brad

Brundrant (830) 216-2995 or e-mail: Ranroad@flash.net.

Universal City volksmarch

The San Antonio Area Volkssport Clubs will hold a 10K walk May 12 in Universal City. Starting point is the Taco Cabana, 1533 Pat Booker Road.

Participants may start anytime between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. and finish by 4 p.m. Paying participants will be registered for a prize.

For more information, contact Ellen Ott at (210) 525-8574 or e-mail: Ranroad@flash.net.

Bike tour

The 23rd annual Wildflower Bicycle Tours event, sponsored by the Baptist Health System, will be May 12 at 8 a.m. The event is considered the largest one-day bicycle tour in South Texas.

Tour routes range in length from 13 to 70 miles. Tours begin and end at Rolling Oaks Mall, located at Loop 1604 and Nacogdoches Road. The event also includes a safety rodeo for children.

For more information or to register, call 225-2647.

Tinker ends Brooks mens' volleyball bid

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Unlike "the thriller in Manila" that epitomized excellence in the classic Muhammad Ali fight, the Brooks mens volleyball squad's match dubbed "the stinker with Tinker" was a turning point that ended their bid for the Air Force Materiel Command crown.

Nursing a 4-0 tourney record, Brooks' 'Waterloo' defeat to Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., in the preliminary round set the stage for their eventual demise in the playoff round during the AFMC tourney held at Hill AFB, Utah, April 17-20.

Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, won the championship by defeating defending champ Robins AFB, GA., in the title match.

"We got robbed 'big time' in the Tinker match," said Brooks back row specialist and team sparkplug Jose Murillo. The match was tied at one game apiece when fate intervened. "We were winning 14-13. Our serve was good. The ball hit in-bounds. Before the ball hit the floor the ref blew the whistle," Murillo said.

Brooks thought they had won the match on the serve, however, the referee blew more than the whistle. She admitted she blew the call by whistling too soon. "Nobody from Tinker was even close to the ball. The ref made us replay the point. We ended up losing the game and the match. We were very upset," Murillo said. He characterized the loss as a turning point, saying, "We lost our momentum after that."

Brooks didn't win any other matches after the Tinker defeat. They lost to Robins 2-1 before advancing to the playoff round with a 4-2 record. Brooks then was eliminated when they lost to Eglin AFB, Fla., 2-1 in the single elimination playoff round.

"I call the game with Tinker 'a stinker' be

cause of what happened," Murillo explained. Murillo, last year's AFMC tourney Most Valuable Player, battled the flu and his own players in a match that demonstrated a lack of team chemistry.

"In the second game, I was hit in the face with a clear shot that should have been blocked. It was the first time I've (ever) been hit in the face during a match," he said. Stunned by the blow, the game was stopped while Murillo recovered. Murillo believes the force of the shot would have broken his nose if he hadn't turned his face at the last second.

"It was embarrassing to the team for that to have happened. I lost confidence in our front row," he said of his 'gun shy' approach to playing defense after that play. The team, as a whole, lost confidence after losing to Tinker.

Until the Tinker match, Brooks appeared to be contending for the title that last year had eluded them when they made a surprising second-place finish.

Brooks' hopes for their first mens' volleyball championship rested on the shoulders of four returning veterans from last year's squad: Murillo, player-coach Lorenzo McFarland, setter Jesse Moreno and middle hitter Donald Wooden. Kevin Forster from Kelly AFB was Murillo's backrow companion.

Brooks won four consecutive matches to start the tournament, defeating Edwards and Los Angeles AFBs (Calif.) 2-1, sweeping Kirtland AFB, N.M., 2-0 and beating Hill 2-1. However, Brooks experienced a weird 'sophomore jinx' by losing the second game of their last three matches.

McFarland, who admitted he was surprised they did so well last year, was the only member of the Brooks squad to be selected to the AFMC All-Tourney team.

Eagles compete in Night Hoops

By Richard Zowie
12th Flying Training Wing

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE — The first time the Brooks Eagles faced the Randolph Bulldogs during the recent Operation Night Hoops double elimination tournament, the Bulldogs squandered a 17-point half time lead and lost 63-58.

But for the Bulldogs, the second time was a charm. The Bulldogs built a 20-point lead at the end of the third period and held on to defeat the Eagles 58-48 in the championship game at the Youth Center on Randolph.

Carlos Moreno led the Eagles (and all scoring) with 15 points while

Both teams came out playing a full court press, resulting in a 9-3 Randolph lead at the end of the first period.

Brooks led at the start of the game, when guard T.J. Reyna sank a three-pointer within the first minute. From there, Randolph center Jawan Bailey countered with a basket and a free-throw to tie the score as Randolph went on a 9-0 run and never looked back.

"The deciding factor was we weren't dropping the balls on offense and not coming back on defense," said Eagles coach Marc Grothues. "The Bulldogs also out-rebounded us big time."

After the ensuing three-pointer, the Eagles scored again about two minutes into the second period when Moreno hit a two-pointer to shrink Randolph's lead to 9-5. Both teams became energized offensively in the second period, where Randolph scored 16 points to Brooks' 15.

The Bulldogs led by as much as 13 in the first half and led 25-18 at half-time, taking advantage of six points off free throws as the Eagles got into foul trouble early.

The Bulldogs outscored the Eagles 19-6 to expand their lead to their largest of the game with a 42-20 lead with about two minutes left in the third period.

Despite being down 44-24 at the end of the third period, Brooks battled back and cut the lead down to as few as seven points.

After scoring 24 points through the first three periods, the Eagles scored that same amount in the final period.

Despite shrinking the Bulldogs' lead and losing by only 10, the loss still left the Eagles disappointed.

"I don't know where we lost our momentum at," said Grothues. "In the first game we were down by 17 and came back to win by eight. We could have cut down the lead closer, but in the end Randolph was playing good and they had it together."



'Helping Hand' boosts Brooks runner's quest to compete in Boston Marathon

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Discovering he had less stamina than an earthworm trying to crawl a few inches on a cold day, the former cross-country track star gasped for breath after running less than a mile during a recreational jog with a friend in December 1993.

Like Lazarus rising from the dead, this future Brooks athlete made a remarkable recovery since that fateful day culminating with his participation April 16 in the 105th Boston Marathon.

"It was a turning point in my life," said Darryl Hand about needing a respirator after embarrassing himself on that winter day seven years ago in a San Antonio park.

"I couldn't run one mile. I said to myself, 'What has

happened to me?'"

Ten years of living what he described as an unhealthy lifestyle had taken its toll on a man who once ran five miles a day while serving as an enlisted computer programmer here from 1979-1983.

"Since then, I've kept track of every mile I have run. It's helped motivate me," said the Air Force Medical Operations Agency contractor who is a senior information engineer for Orbiting Astronomical Observatory.

At 41, this Jersey City, N.J., native is in the best shape of his life after logging 8,469 miles during a circuitous odyssey to the Boston Marathon. To get there, Hand negotiated a seemingly never-ending obstacle course laden with numerous setbacks that



Courtesy photo

Darryl Hand qualifies for the Boston Marathon by running in the Motorola Marathon in Austin, Texas.

"It took me four years to get to Boston. There are a lot of setbacks. You have to have patience to stay with it."

Darryl Hand
Brooks athlete

at times appeared to him as daunting as trying to jog on the moon.

"I never thought about going to Boston. I had quit running when I got out of the service," he said. The running hiatus was uncharacteristic of Hand who began running cross-country during his junior year at Red Creek

Central High School in upstate New York.

He kept running while a member of a Brooks lunchtime running group. Despite helping Brooks colleague Staff Sgt. Rich Walker prepare for the Boston Marathon in 1983, Hand had no desire to run marathons.

"What motivated me to (eventually) run a marathon was serving as a San Antonio Marathon volunteer," recalls Hand. At the 1996 race, Hand was caught up in the event's euphoria.

"I saw them put medals around the necks of runners who completed the race. I said to myself, 'If they could do it, why can't I?'"

The introspective, goal-oriented Hand made a commitment that day. "Running is boring if you don't have a goal to motivate you," he said, explaining that the challenge for him is to complete rather than win races.

By April 1997, he had completed his first marathon. "My goal was to finish the race. I had no idea how unprepared I was to run in a marathon. The course beat me up (physically)."

He had achieved his initial goal, finishing the race in a laborious 4 hours 11 minutes. His momentary sense of accomplishment evaporated with the reality of knowing he had no more goals.

Subsequently, he lost interest in running until unwisely competing as an undertrained runner in the 1998 San Antonio Marathon. Those who saw Hand cross the

finish line in anguish knew it wasn't for him a 'Kodak moment.'

"My second turning point occurred when Roger Soler dared me in November 1999 to run in all five Texas marathons," Hand recalls. Soler, a San Antonio running legend, had also challenged about 120 other local runners.

"Roger gave me a goal to focus on," Hand said. The San Antonio Marathon was first in the series, followed by the bone-chilling conditions of the White Rock Marathon in Dallas, the Houston Marathon's suffocating humidity, and the six-day-apart Motorola Marathon in Austin and "Cow Town" Marathon in Fort Worth.

After completing the Texas Marathon Challenge, Hand's next goal was qualifying for Boston. "To qualify for my age and gender I had to have a marathon time of three hours 20 minutes. My best time was three hours, 30 minutes."

Hand adjusted his training regimen, then qualified within weeks of the deadline earlier this year when he ran the Motorola Marathon in three hours 16 minutes.

However, Hand found out that Boston was unlike any other marathon he had experienced. "Hills kill. I realized Austin is not Boston," Hand admitted.

He had miscalculated the difficulty of the rollercoaster hills that led to mile 20's "Heartbreak Hill."

"At mile 11 my legs felt like rubber. I had started the race at much too fast a pace," he said. "I turned my race from a timed marathon into a survivor marathon."

While hanging his head beginning "Heartbreak Hill's" ascent, Hand regained his motivation from what he saw on the ground.

"Fans had written in chalk encouraging thoughts like 'only 100 more yards to go'," he said.

Spurred on by this inspiring pavement graffiti, Hand was one of 13,395 runners who completed the race, posting a respectable three hours, 47 minutes.

Now his new lifetime goal is to run a marathon in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. "Running is demanding and time consuming. I couldn't have done it without my family's support," he said.

Assisting Hand achieve his goals is the philosophy: "commitment plus patience equals results."

"It took me four years to get to Boston," he said. "There are a lot of setbacks. You have to have patience to stay with it."

He credits many people, including the fitness center staff, for keeping him on track despite heartaches and injuries. Their 'helping Hand' has made the difference.

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Photo by Rudy Purificato

Hand is proud of his Boston Marathon medal.